

Oranges.

Under this title we group a number of short articles about oranges, that we have found in various exchanges. The first two are from the California Fruit Grower:

Estimates as to the size of the orange crop this season continue to vary greatly, figures running from 24,000 to 35,000 cars. The Citograph sticks to its contention that there will be not more than 24,000 cars, with a probability that this estimate may have to be reduced. The Redlands Facts says that the crop is undeniably short in that section, the shortage being placed at from 10 to 25 per cent, with a strong probability that 25 per cent is nearer the correct figure.

On the other hand the traffic departments of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads say that the orange and lemon crop for the season promises greatly to exceed those of the past season. Their estimates of 40,000 cars, however, are high. There is good reason to believe that the shipments will fall far short of that figure.

Naturally, the size of the crop depends largely upon weather conditions. Should good growing weather prevail, allowing the fruit to attain the size it did last season, the volume of shipments will be much larger than will be the case if unfavorable conditions prevail. Then, there is always the danger of frost damage. Last season there were few culls, and it was possible to ship a larger proportion of the crop than usual. But weather conditions such as prevailed last season are unusual and cannot be expected for two seasons in succession.

The orange crop of Orangevale and Fair Oaks this year is unusually heavy. The total shipments from these places will amount to fifty or seventy cars. In speaking of the crop according to the Sacramento Bee, George B. Katzenstein, of the Earl Fruit Company, said: "The orange crop in Fair Oaks and Orangevale this year shows a decided increase over the crops of previous years. Many of the trees are young, and are just beginning to bear. The quality of the fruit is good, and the color is excellent. Shipping of this citrus fruit from these places will begin some time this week. The total output will amount to from fifty to seventy cars. The fruit is reasonably early, and for that reason should bring good prices. The crop will be cleaned up by January 1, which is the time oranges from southern California begin to be shipped. It is a decided advantage for the fruit from this section to reach the market so far in advance of the fruit from the south. When we think of it we have a wonderful country here. Think of the great variety of fruits we raise here. Where else can it be equaled?"

The following is from the Orange County Reporter:

The Cuban crop is going to cut more of a figure in the states than people realize at the present time. In five years more the orange crop from Cuba is going to be enormous. The fruit this season is said to be later and of such a fine quality as in other seasons. This some growers say is caused by the very cool nights last winter, and the excessive rains. Mr. Gray has ten acres of tangerines, which are exceedingly good, though it was perhaps a little early to get the full flavor of the fruit. The trees, which are only four years old, are well covered with fruit.

The varieties, which have been tried here and do well are the Washington navel, the Jaffa, Hart's Tardiff or Valencia Late as some call it, the Parson Brown and others of the standard varieties. Another American who is reported to have a fine grove coming into bearing is Mr. Cox at Ceiba Moocha.

The big Canadian colony at Ceballos is expecting to ship a lot of fruit north this season. They have some 50,000

acres planted in oranges already. The packing of the fruit will be conducted, it is said, in California style and will be done at Ceballos under the supervision of an expert California packer.

The orange growers have much trouble with the young trees from the attack of the "Viva Aguas," or a large black ant which devours the foliage of the trees, ultimately killing them if not checked. It was found by the large growers that bi-sulphate of carbon if pumped into the holes killed all the insects. It is a constant war against this pest in Cuba.

This is from Farm and Ranch:

We have some Texas-grown oranges on our desk this week. These are Satsumas, grown at Alvin. They are sent to show us that "the Coast country is still a garden-spot for the industrious, persevering and enterprising." Mr. J. S. Kerr, of Sherman, kindly forwards these appreciated specimens. He says that "these Satsuma oranges are certainly immense, fine size, beautiful appearance, exquisite flavor, thinnest rind, least pulp. And I have not seen anything, even from Florida, that excels them." These oranges are certainly of highest quality and Farm and Ranch will endeavor to give other practical facts bearing on their growth.

The Orange Future.

The last number of the Orange County Reporter, contains two editorials about oranges. The first is as follows:

A few years ago there was a great deal said about the danger of over-cooling the orange business. The Florida crop steadily increased and the price gradually grew less, until the winter of 1894 freeze when from seventy-five to ninety-five cents per box on the tree was about what was offered for interior fruit, with a somewhat better price for Indian River fruit. At that time men who owned groves about DeLand freely admitted that they could grow oranges at fifty cents per box and realize a profit. But the freeze wiped all that out and left the market bare to the California fruit.

Gradually the state is beginning to figure in the market once again. And though the price realized for the past three or four years has been little changed, interior fruit realizing during this time from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per box on the tree, already the pes-

simist sees danger ahead from over-production.

Many proofs might be cited showing the mistake of this theory, at least so far as the Florida orange is concerned, when shipped ripe and free from smut and scale, but just one proposition presents itself to our mind at this time and it is this: There has always been a market for all the fruit ever grown. There is a market today for all that California grows. And here is the startling fact, viz: The latest estimate placed on the Florida crop for this winter is about 3,000 cars for the entire state, while one town in California, Redlands, shipped the same number of cars (3,000) last year. The estimate crop for the entire state of California this year is 35,000 cars or eleven and two-thirds the size of the present Florida crop.

We will have to grow a good many more oranges in this state before we need scare at the Florida orange prospect.

The second treats of present conditions of the orange business.

The latest estimates on the season's orange crop in Florida bears out the belief of those who claimed it would not exceed 1,600,000 boxes, and that therefore, the price ought to be made to suit a greater demand in the market than there will be fruit to dispose of.

In some parts of the state from a third to a half of the crop is already off and in others at least a fourth, with the season for ripe fruit hardly more than started. Whilst it would seem the wisest policy for the growers to sell reasonably early and not take risks on cold weather, still those who can afford to hold their fruit will likely reap richly when they harvest, provided they do harvest. California reports show that their crop is ripening slowly, though shipping has commenced of green fruit, "yellow on the outside, but green on the inside," the Redlands Citograph says. So that the demand for the king of fruits cannot be filled from that quarter in any great quantity for some weeks yet, perhaps. Floridians, therefore, have a wide field and it will be a good year, considering that the fruit is carrying to market in much finer condition than for two years past.

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